

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Alcoa Middle School
Principal Jim Kirk upon receiving the Education
Consumers Foundation's Value-Added
Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding school principals who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable educator is Jim Kirk, principal of Alcoa Middle School, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kirk recently received the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award, an honor most befitting his outstanding tenure as a principal, as it recognizes the invaluable contributions he has made to the education of the youth of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Value-Added Achievement Award recognizes that Alcoa Middle School, with Principal Kirk at its helm, has been among the most effective of Tennessee's more than 1,300 elementary and middle schools in raising the educational level of its students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk has been principal of Alcoa Middle School since 1994, having previously served as a classroom teacher there from 1979 to 1994 and at Alcoa Elementary School from 1974 to 1979; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Georgia State University with over 100 hours of additional graduate work at numerous distinguished institutions of higher learning, Mr. Kirk began his teaching career in Blount County as a Head Start teacher before relocating to Georgia in 1970 where he taught in the Atlanta Public Schools until he returned to Tennessee in 1974; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Principal Kirk has served as a State Evaluator for the Tennessee Department of Education for the Career Ladder program, worked Conflict Management seminars across the nation as a program facilitator, been a Faculty Associate for the College of Education at the University of Tennessee, instructed teacher across the nation to network with technology under the Educational Goals 2000 program by appointment of U.S. Department of Education Secretary William Riley, and is currently the Chairperson of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) evaluation teams for Eastern Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Kirk has been the recipient of a multitude of exemplary honors and tributes, including selection as Tennessee Teacher of the Year, East Tennessee Middle School Principal of the Year, and NASSP State Principal of the Year to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community and his profession, Principal Kirk has participated in Leadership Blount, is a Deacon at New Providence Presbyterian Church, and is a member of the Alcoa Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the National Education Association as well as the Tennessee Council on Accreditation and School Improvement; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kirk is an extremely talented and compassionate principal who works assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kirk truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mr. Jim Kirk upon receiving the Education Consumers Foundation's Value-Added Achievement Award, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.